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Aug. 26

CONCORD, N.H.

Honorable Morris Cotton
Liberator, New Hampshire

Dear Congressman Cotton:

Mr. Tiffany has conferred with me relative to the question raised by you regarding the status of Ralph Norton, your Secretary. The question was whether or not Mr. Norton would be considered as a paid political agent in performing various tasks in your behalf in the present primary campaign. A similar question was raised by another candidate involving advertising specialists who handled radio and newspaper advertising in behalf of the candidate. In that instance it was our opinion that since the primary concern of an advertising agency was the placing of advertising commercially for a set fee and that such work was regularly done without regard to political affiliation that the advertising agent would not be considered a paid political agent in performing his regular function.

We feel that the situation of Mr. Norton is so similar as to require the same answer. Mr. Norton's primary duties are those of secretary to you. Whatever remuneration he receives he is paid primarily for his services as such secretary and not for such incidental services as may in some way aid your primary campaign. We feel, therefore, that Mr. Norton would not be considered a paid political agent.

Very truly yours,

Henry Bond Jr.,
Assistant Attorney General

HB:JW